

# Anchorage Amateur Radio Club

## General Meeting Friday November 6, 1998

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#### AARC web page & Email contact addresses:

<http://kl7aa.akconnect.com>

president to windsman@alaska.net

webmaster to kl7aa@lawson.akconnect.com

membership to frederickson@iname.com

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#### News Letter Submissions, Information or corrections:

Submissions must be received 2 weeks before meeting

Email: johnlynn@gci.net Facsimile: 907-338-4791

Mail: 7013 Trafford Ave. Anchorage 99504

#### KL7G CODE PRACTICE SCHEDULE

Schedule: 7:00am, 10:00am, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm  
AK time, every day Frequencies: 3575 KHz and 145.35 MHz  
Sending Speeds: 22 wpm, 15 wpm, 7 wpm

#### Nets in Alaska:

The following nets are active in South-central Alaska:  
Alaska Sniper's Net 3.920 MHz 7:00 PM daily  
Alaska Bush Net 7.093 MHz 8:00 PM daily  
Alaska Motley Net 3.933 Mhz 9:00 PM daily  
Alaska Pacific Emergency Preparedness Net 14.292 MHz 8:30 AM M-F  
QCWA net 146.97/.37 repeater Sundays 8:00 PM local  
850 No Name Net 146.85/.25 repeater Sundays 8:00 PM  
Son of Sideband Net 144.20 USB Mondays 9:00 PM local  
Big City Simplex Net 146.520 FM Tuesdays 8:00 PM local  
ARES net 147.30/.90 Mhz Thursdays at 8:00 PM local  
PARKA net 147.30/.90 Mhz Thursdays at 9:00 PM local

#### Anchorage & Mat Valley Area Repeaters

KL7AA systems at Flattop Mt., 2,200 ft  
146.34/94 Mhz, 80 watts, autopatch, 100/141.3 Hz PL  
223.34/224.94, 25 watts, no patch, no PL  
444.70/449.70, 25 watts, autopatch, 100/141.3 PL  
KL7ION at Mt. Gordon Lyon 4,700 ft  
147.30/90 Mhz - 80 watts, no patch, no PL  
KL7AA, Mt. Alyeska, 2,400 ft.  
146.16/76 Mhz, 25 watts, no patch, 141.3 Hz PL  
KL7CC, Anchorage Hillside, SCRC club  
146.97/.37 Mhz, autopatch, 103.5 Hz PL  
KL7DJE at Grubstake Peak, 4,500 ft.  
147.09/.69 Mhz, 25 watts, no patch, 100 Hz PL  
444.925/449.925, 10 watts, no patch, 141.3 Hz PL  
KL7JFU, Palmer, MARA club  
146.85/.25, autopatch, no PL  
KL7AIR Elmendorf, EARS  
147.27/.87 no patch, 107.2 Hz PL  
KL7G West Anchorage & Events  
449.65/444.65 Mhz, patch, no PL

#### Anchorage & Mat Valley Simplex Frequencies

146.52 Mhz Calling and Emergency frequency  
147.57 / 447.57 (crossband linked) HF spotters & chat  
146.49 Mhz Anchorage area simplex chat  
146.41 Mhz Mat Valley simplex chat

### This Month's Speaker

TJ Tombleson, KB8JEE, will describe the plans for Link Alaska Expansion

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**EVERYONE IS WELCOME:** You don't need to be a member of the club to attend the meetings or any other AARC events, although we do encourage any non-member to join our group. See **THIS MONTH'S EVENTS** for the location and time for the meeting and other events.

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~~~ **#07 LINKS** ~~~

Internet Web links, the favorites from our readers

AARC <http://kl7aa.akconnect.com>

SCRC <http://www.servcom.com/worcester/scrc.htm>

EARS <http://ww2.customcpu.com/kl7air/default.htm>

KL7J <http://www.alaska.net/~buchholz>

Fairbanks AARC:

<http://ffdlm1mac.uafsom.alaska.edu/aarc/aarc.html>

Yukon Amateur Radio Association:

<http://www.klondike.com/yara/index.html>

HAARP Project:

<http://server5550.itd.nrl.navy.mil/projects/haarp/>

<<Amateur Radio Reference Library>>

<http://www.area-ham.org/library/libindex.html>

Hamradio: <http://www.hamrad.com/>

Solar Terrestrial Activity <http://209.130.27.95/solar/>

ARRL <http://www.arrl.org/>

Propagation Report Recording 566-1819

*please let us know if there are other club pages or good starting points that should appear here*

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### VHF NETS ABOUND

All of you new HAMs take note: there are lots of nets and nice folks to visit with. The Son of Sideband Net runs each Monday night at 9:00 PM local on 144.200 Mhz USB with a 6 Meter extension on 50.200 Mhz USB. On Tuesday night, the Big City Simplex Net operates on 146.520 FM at 8:00 PM local. On Thursday the ARES net starts at 8:00 PM on the 147.30/.90 repeater with Amateur News line followed at 9:00 PM by the PARKA net. On Sunday there are two nets at the same time. In Anchorage, the QCWA net runs at 8:00 PM on the 146.97/.37 repeater (103.5 Hz PL) and in the valley the 850 No Name Net runs on the 146.85/.25 repeater. We are starting an informal net during the morning and evening drive times on 146.52 Simplex. All are welcome to check into what we are calling the "Stuck in Traffic Net". The object is to share traffic information, handle emergency

traffic, and have a nice visit on the way to work. Net control will hand off until everyone is at work or safely home.

**NEWSLETTER ARTICLES;** All articles from members and interested persons are very welcome. If you wish to submit any articles, jokes, cartoons, please have it typed or neatly handwritten. It can be submitted by computer disk, fax, or E-mail to the newsletter editor at the address listed on the cover. Submissions must be in the hands of the editor at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

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### Regular HAM Gatherings:

\* **Tuesdays, 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM:** Join the gang for lunch and an eyeball QSO at the Royal Fork, Old Seward,

**Saturdays, 7:30 AM:** Here is a great way to get started on the week-end come and meet with some of the locals and have a great breakfast at Phillips Restaurant, at the corner of Arctic and International. Great Fun.

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### ABACUS RADIO REPAIR

Factory authorized service for: Kenwood, ICOM, Yaesu, Alinco, Amateur radio equipment.

Call Jim Wilcy, KL7CC (907) 338-0662

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### THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

**November 6: ARRC general meeting at 7:00 PM** Carr-Gottstein Building APU Campus. Talk in on 146.94 repeater

**November 4: VE License Exams 6:30 PM** Carr-Gottstein Building, APU Campus. Bring photo ID, copy of license (if any) and any certificates of completion.

**November 14: ARES Planning Committee 9:30 AM.** Conference Room at BP Exploration. Everyone welcome. Focusing on preparedness and training.

**November 14: VE License Exams.** Hope Cottage Offices, 540 W. International in the Board Room. At 2:00 PM. Be sure to bring photo ID, copy of license (if any) and any certificates of completion.

**November 13: SCRC general meeting at 7:00 PM** room 220, Business Ed. Bldg., UAA campus. Talk in on 147.57 simplex.

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*Note from the Editor*  
*Edie Lynn, KLOEO*

We're settled in at school, the State Fair is behind us the Holidays are upcoming. The elections are upcoming, last month the nominations were set forth, if you have any questions or would just like to know who was nominated please give Susan Woods, NL7NN, a call for a complete list. Also there will not be any Club minutes this month, we are hoping for them next month. Our activities chairman John Lynn, KLOCY, is looking for any and all help he can get will the planning and suggestions for the Christmas Party.

**Lower vanity fee boosts applications**  
*Worldradio Newsfront*

According to FCC numbers out of Gettysburg earlier this month, the new, lower vanity call sign application fee induced an additional spurt of applications from the typically thrifty ham radio community. The FCC reports better than 281 applications on September 14, the first day of the new \$13 fee, and another 78 applications the next day.

That's in sharp contrast to the 130 or so applications received between August 25th and September 2nd. During all of August, the FCC received just shy of 600 vanity applications.

**New vanity address for paper filers**  
*Worldradio Newsfront*

Effective September 14th, there's a new address at Mellon Bank for vanity call sign paper application filers only. For people who submit a paper Form 610V and FCC Fee Remittance Form 159 and vanity fee using the US Postal Service, the new address is: FCC Wireless Bureau Applications, PO Box 358130, Pittsburgh, PA 15251-5130.

The FCC says Electronic Form 610V Vanity Call Sign filers should continue to send Form 159 with the vanity fee to FCC Amateur Vanity, PO Box 358994, Pittsburgh, PA 15251-5994.

The vanity call sign filing fee is now \$13 dollars for application filed on or after September 14, 1998.

**Hams locate errant marine transmitter**  
*Worldradio Newsfront*

Hams in Florida recently helped to track down the source of a signal on marine Channel 16, most often used for emergencies and as a calling frequency. DEC Linda Mullen, AD4BL, reports Charles Wooten, WA4IMC, was able to find

the offending transmitter "through a process of elimination" of reports from other amateurs monitoring the 156.80 MHz signal. Apparently, a sailboat operator had dropped a bag on his marine radio's mike. The signal remained on the air for several hours. "The Coast Guard was in a tizzy," AD4BL reported.

**Townsville Australia club loans radios**  
*Q-News*

Congratulations to Australia's Townsville ARC. This, for finding a unique way of getting youngsters into Amateur Radio.

All students who successfully complete the clubs Amateur Radio Training courses are offered the free loan of a two meter rig.

The radios are cristaled onto the Townsville club repeater. This helps to educate the newcomer into the tradition of ham radio while he or she awaits the purchase their own rig.

**Amateur Radio growing in VK-land**  
*ARRL Newsletter*

Amateur Radio "Down Under" grew slightly during the first four months of the year, according to figures supplied by the ACA, the Australian's equivalent of the FCC. The Wireless Institute of Australia reports the number of hams in Australia rose from 15,901 to 15,941 between January and April. The biggest growth was in the lowest and highest license classes, Novice Limited and Unrestricted respectively. Australia has five license classes.

**Elmers inspired**  
*Nancy Kott, WZ8C*

I've made the pilgrimage to the Dayton Hamvention for many years, but never attended the annual Youth and Ham Radio Forum. The topic didn't interest me since I have no children nor do I know any young Hams. But this year, the arena was hot and the forum room air-conditioned, so I decided to visit the Forum to hear what the kids had to say.

It turned out to be one of the most refreshing hours of the weekend, and not just because of the air-conditioned room. It reminded me about the basic reason most of us get into this hobby - Ham radio is just plain fun! These kids weren't complaining about the local repeater users, the problems with license requirement restructuring, lowering standards of the exam or the myriad things which bog us down. They shared their excitement of discovering the hobby with us.

Carol Perry, WB2MGP, moderator, chose a very articulate and poised group of young people to speak to the

crowded room. Although each had a different story to tell, one thread ran through each; all the kids have Elmers in their local clubs and parents who care enough to make children a priority.

The Boulder Amateur Radio Club has an auxiliary kid's group called BARC Jr. They have their own Field Day where the children run the show. Kids like Blair Harness, KBOROM, and Crystal Hart, KC0AJF, get on the air with their Elmers - they love operating at night because they rarely get to do that at home. Crystal was the first Ham in her family, but she had the supportive Boulder Amateur Radio Club to Elmer her. After Crystal earned her license, her father followed suit. They enjoy homebrewing together. Crystal does the soldering and she has made her own J-pole and transceiver.

Another Colorado club, Amateur Radio For Youth (ARFY), has members ranging from 11 to 19 years old. ARFY has its own call sign, W0YF, and a web site at [www.mesa.k12.co.us.mgm/arfy](http://www.mesa.k12.co.us.mgm/arfy). Bill Nesbitt, KG0ZI, and Andrew Be, K10JZ, explained that the kids make all the important decisions which gives them a sense of ownership in their club. They have a newsletter and handbook, a web site, banquets and of course, Field Day. They have a point system for earning awards. For example, the kids can earn points by contributing to the newsletter or volunteering for projects. The two top scorers go to the Dayton Hamvention, all expenses paid. Jonathan Chambers, KB0TKD, spoke about a "Dxpedition" the ARFY group took one year for Field Day. They operated atop a 9,000-foot mountain. Unfortunately not every club has the opportunity to make such an exciting Field Day trip! However, just including the kids in on your plans and letting them pitch tents can make a big impression, planting that all-important seed of curiosity.

Steve Pituch, W2MY, sparked an interest in his 11-year-old son John, W2MBY, by taking him along where he assisted in races and other public events. This gave John a chance to see that even a kid can be important and help others. Then his father introduced John to Field Day, where they could pitch a tent, make a camp-fire, cook, and sleep outside. In six weeks, he was a Tech Plus. Even though John gets a kick from helping with public service, he is learning to contest and he enjoys CW.

John Crovelli, W2GD, got started in contesting at age 10. He emphasized the camaraderie of the testers in his local club. Even serious competitors are friends and take the time to share their knowledge with new-comers.

Rebecca Rich, KB0VVT, is an 11-year-old extra. She's quite a celebrity in her hometown in Missouri. The local TV stations have featured Rebecca's accomplishments and she brought a video of their newscasts to share with us. Rebecca's mother, Barbara, spoke to the group about helping kids to get their licenses. She suggested that it is important to develop a schedule and set a date for learning each section at a time - don't go on until you get a section about 80% correct, then add another section. Don't be discouraged by people who tear down Morse code; make learning the code a family project. Barbara also suggests that you deep your goal to

passing the code examination in sight. Pass the test, then perfect your theory later.

While listening to this group of bright young Ham's I found my own enthusiasm for the hobby being buoyed. It reminded me of how Ham Radio should be - Field Day fun and contesting camaraderie, public service and emergency communications. From what I saw at this Ham Radio and Youth Forum, the future of Amateur Radio is in good hands.

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**ARRL Bulletin 90 ARLB090**

**From ARRL Headquarters**

**Newington CT October 26, 1998**

**To all radio amateurs**

In a special meeting October 24, the ARRL Board of Directors unanimously reaffirmed the bulk of its July 1998 Amateur Radio License Restructuring plan with some modifications. Among other things, the Board's July plan would eliminate the Novice and Tech Plus license classes. To provide a logical entry path to HF for Technicians, the Board now has suggested offering CW privileges to Technicians in the current General CW allocations on 80 through 10 meters. Technicians would be permitted up to 200 W PEP.

The Board also agreed to replace the A, B, C, and D license class designations proposed in its July restructuring plan with the names Extra, Advanced, General, and Technician.

"The July plan eliminated the HF door by eliminating the Novice license," observed ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ. "This is, in effect, a replacement for the Novice, but without an additional license class."

Under the July plan--and under the FCC's proposed streamlining the entry-level HF license would be the General, which under the ARRL plan would require passing two written examinations plus a 5 WPM code test. Board members at the October 24 meeting near St Louis expressed concern that the leap to HF privileges under the July plan could prove too daunting, especially for younger newcomers. Some also were troubled about the growing gulf between the "traditional" HF operator and the newer VHF-only amateurs.

Addressing the Morse code requirement in the International Radio Regulations, Sumner summed up the Board's position by saying that the new privileges would amount to self-testing. "By their very nature, you can't use the privileges until you know the code," he said. "We're not expecting the CW bands to be overrun with people taking advantage of this, but as any CW operator knows, the best way to become proficient in the code is to use it on the air."

The special ARRL Board meeting was called to consider the League's comments on the FCC's amateur licensing "streamlining" proposals in WT Docket 98-143, released in August. Comments are due on the FCC's rulemaking proposal

on December 1. During the daylong session, the Board also proposed that the FCC rules ban multiple-choice Morse code tests and establish that a passing grade for a code test be either 70 per cent correct answers to 10 fill-in-the-blank questions or one minute out of five of solid copy.

The Board affirmed its proposals in RM-9196 to improve the procedures for granting Morse code exam credit on the basis of a physician's certification of a disability. It also affirmed "its strong desire" that written exams be modified as necessary "to demonstrate better the depth of the applicant's current radio technical knowledge and operating skill."

The Board also supported retention of the topic definitions to be included in written exams, as contained in Section 97.503 of the rules, with some modification to accommodate the new four-class structure. Under the proposed testing regime, the Technician exam would include 35 questions. Technician applicants must now pass both the 35-question Novice examination plus the current 30-question Technician test. Applicants for General would have to pass a 35-question test-up from the current 30 questions to include additional questions on operating practices. The Advanced exam would go from 50 questions to 40 under the proposal, while the Extra exam would go from 40 to 50 questions, including more highly technical subject matter.

The Board also reaffirmed its desire that Advanced class volunteer examiners be permitted to administer General class exams, and it renewed its request in RM-9115 for several rules changes involving RACES stations.

The Board noted that it had "heard and considered the views of thousands of ARRL members" on the amateur licensing issues raised in both the ARRL and FCC proposals.

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#### **Structuring the restructuring debate** *Jack Kelleher, W4ZC*

Love it or hate it, the ARRL's recent license restructuring plan certainly has generated considerable debate and controversy within the Amateur Radio community and gotten licensees thinking about what's good and what's not so good about the current system. ARRL Directors report they're getting lots of e-mail on both sides and the overall trend appears to be in favor of the plan the Board released earlier this month.

Some Hams have suggested the current system is just fine, and to change it will diminish the status of current licensees. ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, has an answer for the "don't-change-anything" camp, however, "If you're flatly opposed to any change at all, I don't think that you've taken into consideration the changes that have occurred over the past seven years," he said. For example, Sumner points out that the Novice license, instituted in 1951, no longer is the route of entry to Amateur Radio for

more than about 5% of the amateur population. Other than 10 Meters, the Novice bands "are significantly underutilized," he observed. Sumner says amateurs can't make a case for additional bands if the present allocations aren't being used to capacity.

In recent years, most of those coming into the hobby have come in as Technicians. Nevertheless, they still must pass the Novice element, which includes questions on HF that are irrelevant to Technician ops, "This pretty much forces you to accept the fact that there must some changes," he said. "The real issue is how far should that change go, and on that reasonable people can and will differ, and we'll be discussing that over the coming months as the process goes forward."

Sumner said nothing is cast in stone at this point, and if better ideas surface as a result of the current debate, "there will be every chance for those to be reflected in the ultimate FCC action."

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#### **FCC phases out Novice, Tech+ licenses in NPRM** *Jack Kelleher, W4ZC*

The FCC has proposed to phase out the Novice and Technician Plus class licenses, leaving just four amateur license classes in place - Technician, General, Advanced, and Extra. The commission also has asked the amateur community to express its opinions on Morse code requirements for licensing and testing, but offered no specific changes. And the FCC proposed to permit Advanced class licensees to administer amateur exams up through General class. The proposals were among several suggested rules changes and invitations to comment contained in an FCC Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, WT Docket 98-143, made public on August 10th.

In proposing to phase out the Novice and Tech Plus tickets, the FCC pointed to what it called "an unnecessary overlap between the Novice, Technician, and Technician Plus," and asserted that Technician and Tech Plus operators "predominantly" use FM and packet on VHF and UHF. The FCC said Novice applicants last year numbered fewer than 1,000, while there were nearly 21,500 Technician applications.

Under the FCC plan, Novice and Tech Plus licensees would retain current operating privileges, but no new Novice or Tech Plus licenses would be granted. For examination purposes, current examination elements 2 and 3A would be combined into a new element 3A. For administrative purposes, the FCC would combine the current Technician and Tech Plus databases into a single Technician database.

The proposal would eliminate the 5 wpm code test, Element 1A, as a required element for any class of license, while retaining references to it elsewhere in the rules. This has left Hams wondering exactly what the Commission intends. The elimination of the Novice and Tech Plus license classes and Element 1A as a requirement appear to effectively raise the bar for most future applicants wanting HF operating

privileges, unless the FCC ultimately reduces Morse code requirements.

The FCC did not propose to change any operating frequencies or license privileges for amateurs. However, the FCC does seek comment on the disposition of the current Novice HF bands, which carry a 200W output power limit for all licensees. The FCC invited comment on whether it would be "appropriate" to delete the Novice bands and the power restrictions on higher-class licensees and permit Novices to operate CW anywhere on 80, 40, 15, and 10 Meters at 200 W output.

The FCC opened the door to comments on all aspects of Morse code testing from the amateur community. In particular, the Commission said it wants to know if Hams prefer the current three-level system or would like to see it reduced to a one or two-tier system - and, if so, at what required speeds. The FCC asked whether Hams would be willing to trade a reduction in Morse code requirements for additional written elements on newer digital technologies "which, in part, are replacing the Morse code." And, the Commission asked whether it should consider specifying Morse code examination methods, such as fill-in-the-blank or one minute of solid copy, instead of allowing VEs to determine the testing method.

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#### **FCC proposes other rules changes** *Jack Kelleher, W4ZC*

In its Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, WT Docket WT 98-143, the FCC also seeks comments on how to deal with potential abuses of the current disability waiver for higher-speed Morse code tests. In its proposed rules, however, the FCC has altogether deleted current language regarding a physician's certification to waive the 13 or 20 wpm Morse requirement. In RM-9196, the ARRL has asked the FCC to require anyone applying for an exemption pursuant to a doctor's certification to first attempt the higher-speed test before examination credit could be given. The League also asked that VECs have access to relevant medical information from the certifying physician. The FCC said the ARRL's proposal would place "an unfair burden on examinees" and raised serious privacy and confidentiality issues.

The FCC went also with an ARRL petition and proposed allowing Advanced class Hams to be eligible to prepare and administer license examinations up through General class under the VE program. The Commission said the change would permit greater testing opportunities for Hams. The FCC also invited comments on whether it should change written examination requirements "to provide VEs and VECs additional flexibility in determining the specific contents of written examinations.

Referring to yet another ARRL petition, RM -9150, the FCC invited comments on how it can improve its Amateur Radio enforcement processes. The FCC applauded

the ARRL "for its creative thinking" in that petition, but said the specific proposal was "inconsistent" with the current statutory rule of administrative law judges. The FCC raised the possibility of encouraging complainants to include a demand order "to show cause and desist hearing proceeding." The FCC said it also wants to hear how it can better use the services of the Amateur Auxiliary in beefing up enforcement.

The FCC proposed to phase out Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service, or RACES, stations by not renewing their licenses. No new RACES licenses have been issued since 1980, and only 249 valid licenses remain. The FCC said RACES stations no longer are needed because any amateur station that has been properly registered with civil defense organization has the same privileges as a RACES station.

The FCC also used the occasion to clarify the definition of "power" as used in the RF exposure table in Section 97.13(c)(1). The FCC said it refers to peak envelope power (PEP) input to the antenna. It also made clear that no one holding an FCC-issued Ham ticket may apply for a reciprocal permit for an alien amateur license.

Without comment in the NPRM text, the FCC also appears to have eliminated the 365-day time limit for a Certification of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) to remain valid. The current 365-day limit remains in proposed wording in Section 97.9(b), Operator license, however.

The FCC is expected to issue an erratum to correct outright errors in the NPRM, but it has no plans to clarify the Commission's intent on individual issues.

The FCC set a longer-than-normal comment period. The deadline for comments is December 1, 1998. The deadline for reply comments is January 15, 1999. The FCC will accept electronic comments via the Internet at <http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>.

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#### **FCC denies Checkpoint Systems petition** *Jack Kelleher, W4ZC*

The FCC has turned down a bid by Checkpoint Systems, a maker of theft deterrent systems for stores, to raise the permissible radiated and power-line conducted emission levels of its products operating at HF. The Part 15 devices, known as electronic article surveillance or EAS systems, are located at store entrance and exit gates. The gates include a transmitter and receiver that can detect passive electronic tags attached to merchandise and trigger an alarm.

Last year, Checkpoint asked the FCC to be allowed to operate between 1.705 and 30 Mhz at a maximum radiated emission level of 1,000 uV/meter (measured at a distance of 30 meters), and a maximum conducted emission level of 3,000 uV. Current rules permit a maximum radiated emission level of 30 uV/meter (measured at a distance of 1 meter) between 1.705 and 30 Mhz, or 100 uV per meter between 1.705 and 10 MHz. the current conducted emission

limit for such devices operating between 1.705 and 10 MHz is 250 uV.

In its comments, the ARRL opposed the Checkpoint petition arguing that it would result in increased interference to amateur HF operation. The League also said Checkpoint had not provided any technical analysis of the potential for increased interference at the frequencies in question.

In a decision issued August 5th, the FCC went along with the League, saying Checkpoint had not provided sufficient technical analysis to justify the requested tenfold increase in radiated emission limits. The Commission also said that Checkpoint had not justified its assertion that its EAS systems were in danger of being "drowned out" by other sources of radio noise.

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#### **Spectrum bill picks up more co-sponsors** *Jack Kelleher, W4ZC*

During August, HR 3752, the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act, picked up seven new co-sponsors: Rep Frank R. Wolf, Virginia; Rep Linda Smith, Washington; Rep George Miller, California; Rep Max Sandlin, Texas; Rep Lynn Rivers, Michigan; Rep William Goodling, Pennsylvania; and Rep Anne Northup, Kentucky. This brings the total to 64, plus the original sponsor Rep Michael Bilirakis of Florida.

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#### **Guatemalan Hams seek public support for return of bands** *Jack Kelleher, W4ZC*

The Amateur Radio Club of Guatemala (Club de Radioaficionados de Guatemala (CRAG) has issued "a call to the public conscience" as part of its effort to get the Guatemalan government to restore access to UHF and SHF bands to Hams. In 1996, the Guatemalan Congress eliminated 40% of the Amateur Radio frequencies including the formerly shared 430 to 440 MHz band and SHF bands. the spectrum has been sold for commercial use.

Reports from that Central American nation indicate commercial land mobile stations are now being licensed in the 70-cm band. CRAG and amateur satellite interests elsewhere in the world worry that the commercial stations and existing amateur satellite operations will not be able to comfortably coexist in the band. Amateur satellites operate between 435 and 438 MHz.

According to CRAG, the Guatemalan government has so far ignored its objections that the frequencies should be reserved for Ham use in accordance with ITU radio regulations. CRAG already has presented a formal request to the Guatemalan Ministry of Communications to restore 430 to 440 MHz to Amateur Radio use but, says the government has not responded to its pleas.

In a statement, CRAG expressed concerns that the commercial activity at 70-cm would cause interference to neighboring countries. "A commercial communication service is incompatible with the Amateur Radio Service," CRAG said. CRAG also worried that the commercial activity would strain relations with other countries, and that Guatemalan amateurs would not be able to take part in future space and satellite communication, including the International Space Station.

Beyond that, CRAG said, eliminating the 70-cm band in Guatemala "also discards its beneficial use for thousands of Guatemalans in case of natural disasters and emergencies."

Further north, Mexican authorities last year auctioned spectrum at 440 to 450 MHz and 485 to 495 MHz, currently all or part of TV channels 16, 17 and 18, for "fixed or mobile wireless services." Gina Dalma of the Mexican Federal Telecommunications Commission (COFETEL) says five fixed-wireless service licenses were offered in those bands; another four (for what she called "national footprint") already are held by Iusacell (Bell Atlantic).

COFETEL's 1998 auction plan indicates intentions to auction 148 to 174 MHz and 450 to 470 MHz for "private communication systems" on the state level.

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#### **The ARRL Letter** **October 9, 1998**

#### **FCC FINES FLORIDA HAM IN INTERFERENCE CASE**

The FCC has levied a \$2500 fine on a Florida ham for malicious interference on a business radio service frequency. Jeffrey G. Guss, KF4MWT, of Palm Bay, Florida, was cited by the Commission following an investigation of several months that also involved malicious interference to an amateur repeater.

In February 1997, the FCC's Tampa office responded to complaints of unauthorized transmissions containing foul language and threats on 154.6 MHz. Agents tracked the transmissions to Guss's residence, but he denied having equipment that could transmit on 154.6 MHz. The FCC sent Guss a warning letter regarding the unlicensed 154.6 MHz operation that had been traced to his residence, but he failed to reply as required.

Later that year, the Tampa office responded to complaints of malicious interference to an amateur repeater. Using DF gear, agents tracked the transmissions to a mobile source and ultimately spotted Guss riding in the bed of a pick-up truck. Guss denied knowledge of the transmissions on the amateur repeater, but when agents asked to inspect his amateur station, they found a hand-held transceiver that transmitted on 154.6 MHz. They also spotted what appeared to be an RF amplifier inside a vehicle Guss owns, but he refused permission to inspect it.

An Official Notice of Violation went out last September, but Guss again failed to reply as required. Last February, the Tampa office issued a Notice of Apparent Liability to Guss for unlicensed operation on 154.6 MHz, for failing to permit inspection of radio equipment in his van, and for failing to respond to the FCC's correspondence.

An FCC review upheld the initial findings in the case. On October 7, the FCC ordered Guss to pay the \$2500 fine within 30 days. There is no indication in the order that Guss's amateur ticket or the Land Mobile Radio Service license he holds will be jeopardized, however.

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### **HAMS HELP NAB POLICE RADIO JAMMER**

**The ARRL Letter  
October 9, 1998**

A Connecticut Amateur Radio tracking team called Capitol Region Malicious Interference Tracking (CRMIT--pronounced "Kermit") helped lead authorities to a man they believe was interfering with local public safety communications. Wethersfield, Connecticut, police arrested Joel Langdo of Hartford September 29. He's been charged with criminal mischief, interfering with police and breach of peace. Langdo also could face similar charges in other communities as well as federal charges.

Langdo, a security guard who does not hold an amateur license, allegedly used a modified ham radio hand-held to transmit on police and fire frequencies used by as many as three dozen Connecticut public safety agencies. At one point, he is said to have jammed the Manchester, Connecticut, police system for 15 minutes.

Tracking down Langdo took several months of often grueling detective work and careful documentation of offending transmissions, according to CRMIT spokesman Bruce Marcus, WAINXG, an ARRL Life Member who's in the land-mobile business. Last April, Manchester Police solicited help from CRMIT, which, in turn notified the FCC. CRMIT helped Manchester authorities solve another malicious interference case several years ago.

Marcus said the jammer used a modified Yaesu FT-50R dual band hand-held for all of his escapades, which included playing music, airing sound from TV sitcoms, making moaning sounds, and recording and playing back police transmissions. Because the complaints were widespread, Marcus said it was not clear at first that the jamming incidents were related. "We put the puzzle together," he said. The CRMIT team used sophisticated transmitter fingerprinting equipment, and the offender helped to capture himself, Marcus said. "Its unique signature nailed it." The offender also had a habit of broadcasting Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite and certain DTMF strings.

The CRMIT team eventually was able to track transmissions to the building where Langdo lived. Marcus said federal authorities are looking into how Langdo got the radio illegally modified to transmit outside the amateur bands.

Marcus had some advice for hams who want to get involved in tracking down perpetrators of malicious interference. "The object is diligence and cooperation from fellow hams to find the bearings and identification of those signals," he said. "You have to work at it. You have to work at it, and it takes the cooperation of many people."

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### **DELAYED SPACE STATION SCHEDULE POSTPONES ARISS**

**The ARRL Letter  
October 9, 1998**

Delays in the start of construction for the International Space Station will postpone the permanent presence of ham radio in space. After meeting with a NASA delegation late last week, the Russian Space Agency rescheduled the launch of the first crew to early next year. Originally set for launch next summer, the first crew now will go into space in January 2000. "So, you won't have an Amateur Radio signal coming out of the ISS until then," said NASA's SAREX Principal Investigator Matt Bordelon, KC5BTL. The first crew will consist of US astronaut William M. Shepherd, as the expedition commander. Shepherd is studying for his ham ticket. Accompanying him will be Russian cosmonauts Yuri Gidzenko and Sergei Krikalev, U5MIR. All three have previous space flight experience. The crew has been training for their launch on a Soyuz vehicle and a planned five-month mission on the ISS. The change in launch date was blamed on budget-based delays in Russia's completion of the Functional Cargo Block or service module for the ISS. Launch of the service module now is set for next July. The service module is the section of the ISS in which astronauts and cosmonauts will live during construction and will be ham radio's first permanent beach head in space. Russia's financial woes have put its space program well behind the curve in recent months. At the same meetings between US and Russian space officials last week, Russia agreed to sell its research time aboard the first phase of the ISS and unspecified hardware to the US for \$60 million. The latest delay means that permanent Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) equipment will not be on the air until after the Russian service module is in space and occupied. However, Amateur Radio has been manifested aboard the ISS as "necessary crew equipment." Once aboard the ISS, ham radio, through the SAREX program, will serve as an educational tool through worldwide school contacts and as an outreach to the general public.

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### **Beacon news Woldradio**

A quick note from Brandon Anderson, N8PUM. He says he is putting a new beacon on the air on 222.055 + 1 kHz. Brandon will be using the new - PAR 222 MHz

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**SCHOOLS IN FOUR STATES ON NEXT SAREX QSO  
SCHEDULE**  
*The ARRL Letter*  
October 9, 1998

Schools in Indiana, Rhode Island, Texas, and Virginia are on the schedule to make Amateur Radio contact with the astronauts aboard the space shuttle Columbia next year as part of the Space Amateur Radio EXperiment, or SAREX, program. The four-day flight, mission STS-93, is tentatively set for launch January 21. Hams aboard STS-93 are Commander Eileen Collins, KD5EDS, Michel Tognini, KD5EJZ, and Catherine Coleman, KC5ZTH. Other crew members are Jeffrey Ashby and Steven Hawley. If all goes as planned, students at each school will get a chance to directly interview the astronauts via a ham radio linkup. Typical passes last approximately 10 minutes. Specific times and dates of the school contacts have not yet been arranged. For more information on the SAREX program, contact Jean Wolfgang, WB3IOS, e-mail [jwolfgang@arrrl.org](mailto:jwolfgang@arrrl.org).

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*The ARRL Letter*  
October 9, 1998

\* 1998 Field Day results: The results of the 1998 Field Day will appear in the December 1998 issue of QST. Field Day results typically have appeared in the November issue, which, this year, carries instead the updated and corrected results of the 1997 ARRL 10-Meter Contest. This November's issue does include several photographs from this year's Field Day event, submitted by numerous participants.

\* Call for papers: The ARRL seeks articles for the next volume of the very popular The ARRL Antenna Compendium series. An article should be previously unpublished and should deal with antennas, transmission lines, or propagation. Submit articles (or solid ideas for possible articles) to Dean Straw, N6BV, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111 or via e-mail to [n6bv@arrrl.org](mailto:n6bv@arrrl.org).

\* TMSAT-1 not yet ready for ham use: Chris Jackson, G7UPN reports that TMSAT-1 commissioning is mostly complete. Testing and calibration of the satellites imaging system was underway. An "anomaly" has been observed involving the downlink transmitter, however. The power periodically drops to less than 1 W. Ground control stations are attempting to determine the cause, and the transmitter is only being operated over the command stations in Bangkok, Thailand, and Surrey, England. "This will probably continue for another few weeks," Jackson said in mid-September. For more information on TMSAT-1, visit <http://www.ee.surrey.ac.uk/CSER/UOSAT/missions/tmsat/info/index.html>

\* Ham radio history reflector: An Ohio ham has started up a free e-mail reflector that focuses on Amateur Radio trivia, history, and recollections. Pete Buehner, KC8ER, of Mentor, Ohio, says he established the electronic forum "to research and preserve as much of our hobby's past as possible." He only asks that hams "share what they know" on the reflector. To subscribe, send a blank e-mail message to [ham-radio-history-subscribe@eGroups.com](mailto:ham-radio-history-subscribe@eGroups.com). For more information, contact KC8ER at [kc8er@harborcom.net](mailto:kc8er@harborcom.net); <http://www.members.harborcom.net/~kc8er>.

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**BURROWING OWLS ON THE MOVE**  
*The ARRL Letter*  
October 16, 1998

ARRL Amateur Radio Direction Finding Coordinator Joe Moell, K0OV, says that reports from Canadian Wildlife Service biologists indicate that radio-tagged rare burrowing owls are on the move. "Now is the time to monitor for the owls!" he said.

Moell recently sought help from hams and monitoring enthusiasts to assist in tracking the migration of the burrowing owl. "We need many monitors scattered over a wide area right now," he said. The owls' radio tags transmit in the vicinity of 172 MHz. Approximately 40 owls have been tagged with transmitters, each on a slightly different frequency.

Reports from Canadian wildlife personnel indicate the owls have migrated south from Saskatchewan and Alberta. A planned aircraft tracking project fell through, however, increasing the importance of ground-based volunteer monitors.

The Saskatchewan and Alberta owls are expected to fly southward through Montana, North Dakota, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska, Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Texas. However, the exact routes and route variations are uncertain. Moell, says there's a particular need for monitors in southern Texas and northern Mexico--the anticipated wintering grounds for the Saskatchewan owls.

Those with monitoring capability living in and even around the states listed should check the owl frequencies regularly for the next month or so. Because the owls fly at night, the transmitting range at night is better than daytime.

Moell says that if you hear a signal that might be an owl radio tag, make note of the date and time, exact frequency, your location, and any other distinctive signal characteristics. But he cautions against disturbing the birds themselves, even if sighted.

Moell asks volunteer monitors to e-mail any "owl heard" reports with as much detail as possible to him at [homingin@aol.com](mailto:homingin@aol.com) and to Canadian biologist Helen Trefry [Helen.Trefry@EC.gc.ca](mailto:Helen.Trefry@EC.gc.ca). For more information, see the K0OV Web site, <http://members.aol.com/~homingin/>.

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### FCC DENIES KV4FZ PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION

*The ARRL Letter*  
October 16, 1998

The KV4FZ legal saga appears headed for the courtroom. The FCC has denied a petition for reconsideration filed by Herbert L. Schoenbohm, KV4FZ. Earlier this year, the FCC upheld the supplemental initial decision of an administrative law judge denying Schoenbohm's application to renew his Amateur Radio licenses. The latest FCC action—on October 6—affirms that finding. The next step is the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

In 1992, Schoenbohm, of Kingshill, Virgin Islands, was convicted in federal court of fraudulently using a counterfeit access device to obtain long-distance telephone service. In 1994, the FCC designated his ham radio renewal application for hearing. ALJ Edward Luton subsequently found that Schoenbohm had "engaged in misrepresentation and lacked candor" in testifying about his 1992 felony telephone toll fraud conviction and his solicitation of ex parte presentations. The FCC said his behavior, in combination with his fraud conviction, justified nonrenewal of his ham ticket.

Schoenbohm maintains that the FCC should renew his license because his conviction was several years ago, his sentence light, and he's had a spotless record and been fully rehabilitated. The FCC disagreed, however. Schoenbohm has been allowed to continue operating as KV4FZ until his administrative and judicial appeals are exhausted.

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*The ARRL Letter*  
October 16, 1998

\* Hams pass word on quake: Amateur Radio was the link to the outside world after an earth tremor hit Belgrade and central Serbia September 30. The quake, measuring 5.4 on the Richter Scale, caused minor damage. Amateur Radio reports said pajama-clad residents ran into the open clutching children, but seismologists advised within two hours that it was safe to go back inside. The tremor knocked out power in some parts of Belgrade. No one was reported hurt.

\* France simplifies reciprocal permit: France no longer requires a temporary operating permit for visits of up to 90 days on French soil, and there is no longer any charge. Formerly, applicants had to pay a fee of 100-francs (around

\$18) and wait a few weeks for a license. Now, no special notification is necessary. The only "catch" is that operators are supposed to identify using both the required French prefix as well as a /P suffix (eg, FP/W1AW/P), making for cumbersome call sign!—thanks to Gerard Valadier, N2BFL

\* Patty wins again: Country songstress Patty Loveless, KD4WUJ, recently took home the Country Music Association's Vocal Event award for her hit single "You Don't Seem to Miss Me," recorded with special guest artist George Jones. This marks her fourth award from the Country Music Association.—thanks to Newsline

\* Me too! Mike Endres, WH6J, of Tavares, Florida, says Warren Offutt, AF9Q, of New Mexico, is not the only ham to have an "orbiting rock" named after him (see The ARRL Letter, Vol 17, No 11, or May QST, page 75). Endres says he's got one too. The asteroid is 7361 Endres, discovered March 15, 1996, orbiting just beyond Mars. He says NASA/JPL's Eleanor "Glo" Helin ("Ms Comet" to the astronomical community, according to Endres) named the asteroid after him. He said the naming followed his 18-month long effort as site manager for the GEODSS Tracking Site on Maui to convince the Air Force to allow NASA/JPL to use the GEODSS telescopes for near-Earth orbit asteroid searches during the dark of the moon. "The effort was tremendously successful," he said, and 7361 Endres was the first asteroid discovered after NASA/JPL instituted the NEAT Project. NEAT has its own home page <http://huey.jpl.nasa.gov:80/~spravdo/neat.html>. Endres has retired and moved to Florida but says he keeps "a keen interest in things astronomical."

\* Light trucks get equal plates in Rhode Island: Light trucks in Rhode Island now are eligible to carry Amateur Radio call sign license plates. L. Dean Whitsett, N1SXL, of Hope Valley, Rhode Island, says that after he was unable to get ham plates on his own truck, he enlisted the help of state Sen. Barbara Walsh, to change the law. The revised statutes now permit ham plates on passenger and commercial vehicles under 9000 pounds gross weight. Ham plates are eligible to all but Novice ops in Rhode Island.

\* SOHO nearly back in business: High-quality new pictures of the sun, taken earlier this week from the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO), have raised hopes that the mission may soon be returned to scientific operations. Engineers have successfully reactivated 9 of the 12 instruments on the European Space Agency/NASA SOHO mission, which has been out of commission for nearly four months after contact was lost on June 24. Images from the Michelson Doppler Imager and the Extreme Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope on SOHO are posted at <http://sohowww.nascom.nasa.gov--NASA>

| October 1998 |    |    |    |    |    |    | HAM_EVENTS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | December 1998 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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November 1998

| Sun                                                                                   | Mon                                                        | Tue                                                                                                                                           | Wed                                                    | Thu                                                                                                                     | Fri                                                     | Sat                                                                                                                                              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <div>1</div> <div>8:00PM-8:30PM<br/>QCWA net<br/>8:00PM-9:00PM<br/>No Name net</div>  | <div>2</div> <div>9:00PM-11:00PM<br/>Son of SSB net</div>  | <div>3</div> <div>11:30AM-1:00PM<br/>HAM lunch Royal Fork<br/>7:00PM-9:00PM<br/>EARS meeting<br/>8:00PM-9:00PM<br/>Big City Simplex net</div> | <div>4</div> <div>6:30PM-8:30PM<br/>VE exam @APU</div> | <div>5</div> <div>12:00PM-1:00PM<br/>Election Day<br/>8:00PM-9:00PM<br/>ARES net<br/>9:00PM-10:00PM<br/>PARKA net</div> | <div>6</div> <div>7:00PM-9:00PM<br/>AARC meeting</div>  | <div>7</div> <div>7:30AM-9:00AM<br/>HAM breakfast</div>                                                                                          |
| <div>8</div> <div>8:00PM-8:30PM<br/>QCWA net<br/>8:00PM-9:00PM<br/>No Name net</div>  | <div>9</div> <div>9:00PM-11:00PM<br/>Son of SSB net</div>  | <div>10</div> <div>11:30AM-1:00PM<br/>HAM lunch Royal Fork<br/>8:00PM-9:00PM<br/>Big City Simplex net</div>                                   |                                                        | <div>11</div> <div>8:00PM-9:00PM<br/>ARES net<br/>9:00PM-10:00PM<br/>PARKA net</div>                                    | <div>12</div> <div>7:00PM-9:00PM<br/>SCRC meeting</div> | <div>13</div> <div>7:30AM-9:00AM<br/>HAM breakfast<br/>9:30AM-12:00PM<br/>ARES planning meeting<br/>2:00PM-4:00PM<br/>VE exam Hope Cottage</div> |
| <div>15</div> <div>8:00PM-8:30PM<br/>QCWA net<br/>8:00PM-9:00PM<br/>No Name net</div> | <div>16</div> <div>9:00PM-11:00PM<br/>Son of SSB net</div> | <div>17</div> <div>11:30AM-1:00PM<br/>HAM lunch Royal Fork<br/>8:00PM-9:00PM<br/>Big City Simplex net</div>                                   |                                                        | <div>18</div> <div>8:00PM-9:00PM<br/>ARES net<br/>9:00PM-10:00PM<br/>PARKA net</div>                                    |                                                         | <div>20</div> <div>7:30AM-9:00AM<br/>HAM breakfast<br/>11:00AM-1:00PM<br/>PARKA meeting at Peggy's</div>                                         |
| <div>22</div> <div>8:00PM-8:30PM<br/>QCWA net<br/>8:00PM-9:00PM<br/>No Name net</div> | <div>23</div> <div>9:00PM-11:00PM<br/>Son of SSB net</div> | <div>24</div> <div>11:30AM-1:00PM<br/>HAM lunch Royal Fork<br/>8:00PM-9:00PM<br/>Big City Simplex net</div>                                   |                                                        | <div>25</div> <div>8:00PM-9:00PM<br/>ARES net<br/>9:00PM-10:00PM<br/>PARKA net</div>                                    | <div>26</div> <div>7:00PM-9:00PM<br/>MARA meeting</div> | <div>27</div> <div>7:30AM-9:00AM<br/>HAM breakfast</div>                                                                                         |
| <div>29</div> <div>8:00PM-8:30PM<br/>QCWA net<br/>8:00PM-9:00PM<br/>No Name net</div> | <div>30</div> <div>9:00PM-11:00PM<br/>Son of SSB net</div> |                                                                                                                                               |                                                        |                                                                                                                         |                                                         |                                                                                                                                                  |

## **The Anchorage Amateur Radio Club News**

**Anchorage Amateur Radio Club, Inc**  
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### **A Woman's Random Thoughts**

\*\*\*Skinny people piss me off! Especially when they say things like, "You know sometimes I forget to eat." Now I've forgotten my address, my mother's maiden name, and my keys. But I've never forgotten to eat. You have to be a special kind of stupid to forget to eat.

\*\*\*A friend of mine confessed that she got her Valium mixed up with her birth control pills. She has 14 kids, but she doesn't give a shit.

\*\*\*They keep telling us to get in touch with our bodies. Mine isn't all that communicative but I heard from it the other day after I said, "Body, how'd you like to go to the six o'clock class in vigorous toning?" Clear as a bell my body said, "Listen here BITCH....do it and you die!!!!"

\*\*\*The trouble with some women is that they get all excited about nothing (and then they marry him).

\*\*\*I read this article that said the typical symptoms of stress are eating too much, smoking too much, impulse buying and driving too fast. Are they kidding? That is my idea of a perfect day.

\*\*\*I know what Victoria's Secret is. The secret is that nobody older than 30 can fit into their stuff.

\*\*\*If men can run the world, why can't they stop wearing neckties? (How intelligent is it to start the day by tying a noose around your neck?)